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Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Division of Mines

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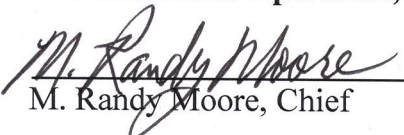
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MEMORANDUM DM 11-07

TO: All Coal Mine Operators, Board of Coal Mining Examiners Instructors

FROM: 
M. Randy Moore, Chief

SUBJECT: Requirements for Certification – The Ability to Read and Speak English

DATE: November 30, 2011

Due to the ever-demanding need for coal mine workers, many questions have arisen lately as to whether non-English speaking persons can be certified as Virginia general coal miners.

Citing public safety and the inherent dangers associated with the mining work environment, the Virginia Board of Coal Mining Examiners, at their November 1, 2011, meeting, reaffirmed a March 2008 decision to require any applicant for general miner certification to submit to training sessions, pass a written, open-book examination and demonstrate knowledge of the mining laws without assistance from the instructor or an interpreter.

The Board believes this decision ensures a safer work environment for all workers at Virginia's underground and surface coal mines.

pdv